Read

Tulip, Dallas co. Arkansas.
April 11th 1855.

Society of Inquiry;
Princeton N.J.

Dear Brethren:

Seventeen years ago, I visited your Seminary, and addressed the young brethren then there, with regard to the destitutions of our State, (Arkansas) and endeavored to enlist some, then soon to enter the sacred office to "come over and help us." Several were deeply enlisted - some started, but only one, (of more than 100 then in the Seminary, who heard me) ever reached Ark - and he remained only a few months! Again, and again have we written, and begged and urged upon the attention of our Board - our Seminaries, and individual brethren, the great need we have of more ministers - for the last 18 years, but hitherto almost in vain. Missouri, Texas, California, and Oregon receive aid - and this is well; but why should poor Arkansas be passed by?

Look at the Map of our large State. In the counties S. of the Ark^{s}. River - about 25 in all - we have only 4 Presbyterian ministers! and three of these are in one co. and one of these three is superannuated - the other two are compelled to teach a great portion of their time! Twenty three counties filling up rapidly with emigrants, containing fine lands, healthy atmosphere — all without one single Minister of our Order! And besides there is not a Colporteur — not a S.S. Agent, not a Tract distributor, Temperance Lecturer — nor any such appliance! This too is substantially the case with the N. half of our State. and N. Louisiana, and the adjoining portions of Texas!

True we have quite a number of so called ministers in this region, but you may well guess the influence they exert upon the Masses when you learn that many of these are of the most *illiterate* classes. It is true also, that in this class there are some noble exceptions: but *generally*, they are "the blind leading the bli

Our Board of Missions stand pledged to send u any young (or old) brother who is willing to com and cast in his lot with us, and who is willing to "endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." You may expect hardships if you com to Ark.ª but Brethren, where will you not find them, if you expect to follow closely in the step of our Great Exemplar? "Sure, I must *fight* if I w.d r

But our people here greatly desire, and would readily *appreciate* "sound doctrine", and the faithfu *intelligent* minister of Jesus Christ. They are ready also to receive with open arms, yea, open hearts and *purses*, those that come with the sole purpo of preaching the gospel — those who are "willing spend and be spent" for Christ's sake.

At some four or five points in the bounds of our (Ouachita) Presbytery, would ministers now be liberally supported, with probably a small appropriation from the Board, the first year or two. And besides there are other places where the faithful labors of a minister, with God's blessing, would be blessed in building up Churches. Several neighborhoods where we never have had Churches organized, are begging us to send them "a Presbyterian preacher." Some of the points we wish occupied immediately, and where we already have churches organized, I will mention: together with the name of an Elder, to whom letters of inquiry can be directed: viz: Washington, Hempstead co - Elder, Joel W. Hannah. Camden, Ouachita co - Elder, P. K. Rounseville. Lepile Church, (Wilmington, Union co. P.O.) Robt. J. Hardy, Elder. Grand Lake, Chicot co - Elder, - not known. East Caney, Ouachita co - Elder Col. Murphy, (Leak's Store P.O.) Warren, Bradley Co. No Elder, but correspond with Mr. Bartlett, the Clerk of Court, a member of the Church, who is anxious for a minister there. We greatly need one also in Columbia, in Sevier and Clark counties.

Now, Dear Brethren, who of you that are enquiring where the Master would send you, will look at our destitutions, and come and lend us a helping hand, to build up the kingdom of our blessed Saviour, in this neglected, long neglected region? Any information needed further, I will cheerfully give, at any time. Address me at this place. Two months ago I came to Tulip, and we have most encouraging prospects. A precious little band of praying Christians would not consent for me to leave them, to be nearer an only child, 15 years old, now 1000 miles away, exposed to all the temptations of College life. I could not make up my mind to leave this field in all its destitution, tho- a flattering offer had been made me to be nearer the child of my affections. How long shall we plead in vain? Oh! that we were like the traveller to Damascus, and would pray as fervently and act as promptly- when he said "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" And then "the Nations" are crying for the Bread of Life — thirsting for the waters of Salvation. If any of you intend going to the "foreign field" I have not a word to say. But surely we owe much to our own Western land or soon it will pass into the hands of those that care not for a pure Christianity. Society is fast receiving its moulding impress- "Brethren pray for us."

Yours in the best of bonds-
A. W. M. Banks.

P. S.
Be pleased to present my regards to
Drs. Hodge and McGill, whom I met
last Spring at Buffalo.
B.